

BLUE-GRASS BLADE.

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Charles L. Moore
Editor

A Suggestion to James Lane Allen.

I have the honor of an extended and intimate acquaintance with James Lane Allen, the Kentucky magazine writer and lecturer. In purity of diction and style, he stands peerless among Southern prose writers, and there is a special demand for his distinctive literary traits to counterbalance the immensely preponderating Southern trend to the jocular and dialectic and light styles of literature.

Writers in this last department have shown great excellence, and have contributed to the health, happiness and good morals of the people by making them laugh at genuine humor. I regard some of these as being as truly public benefactors as are our greatest discoverers and scientists, or as the writers of some of our finest ethics and philosophy; but it would not do to have all of our Southern literature of that kind. There should always be some of that moralizing and refining influence that springs from such high refinement of words and ideas as we find in Macaulay or Goldsmith, and that tender pathos and sentiment that hang like an autumnal halo around the books and life of Washington Irving.

There is something about Mr. Allen that reminds me of Irving. I have not heard Mr. Allen lecture, but from current comment I gain the general impression that the defect in his lectures is the lack of advocacy of any of the practical and tangible subjects that are engaging the popular mind.

Though Mr. Allen's writings have been such as appealed to heart and sentiment, probably because the commercial value of these was more readily realized, he is a man of much debt of scholarship and breadth of intuitive capacity and appreciation as would most eminently fit him for didactic ethics and philosophy.

While such a question as the literature of the South may engage the interest of a few *sacants*, for the large majority, even among highly cultivated people, it lacks that definiteness and pointedness and special adaptation to a particular end that is in demand now.

Henry Grady, more than any that I know, had put himself in touch with the competent consensus of the age, and his memory is to-day enshrined in the hearts of pure women and good men, as I cannot conceive to be possible of any orator now living. His death leaves an aching void in the great American heart.

Of course it would be my preference to have Mr. Allen take up Grady's mantle, and, like himself, become the champion of the Prohibition cause, in the possibilities of which there seems to me to be wrapped up more of good to humanity than anything now before the people. But if he does not specially fancy this department, there are congenial fields of thought of which it can hardly so truly be said that they need cultivation, as that their harvest is ready for the reaper and sickle.

Let Mr. Allen become the champion of an international peace congress for instance. Let him espouse the cause of the Indians, or devise some solution of the negro problem, or advocate compulsory education, or educational qualification for the elective franchise, or woman suffrage, or dress reform, or something like General Booth's plan for the amelioration of the condition of the poor.

The whole tendency of any influence that Mr. Allen would be liable to exert would be refining, but the demand of the age is for expedition and directness in purpose, and there is an opening for laborers in some of these departments where there is a specific end that many people want to see accomplished.

Woman Suffrage.

There are questions upon which even the Farmers Alliance will not agree. The National Con-

vention, in session at Omaha, adopted a resolution favoring woman suffrage. This action will not meet with approbation in the South. The women of the South do not want to vote.—*Georgetown Times.*

I believe the most intelligent women of Georgetown would say that they are willing for other educated women to vote.

The Prohibition party simply want to vote, to have the right to do so, and no man or woman can offer any reason why they should not have that right.

Withholding suffrage from educated women is the domination of brute force over the broadest enlightenment of the age.

A Call by Chairman Harris for Amounts Pledged.

IT BEGINS STATE PROHIBITION, Executive Committee of Ky. To the Prohibitionists of Kentucky.

By order of the Executive Committee of the Prohibition party of the State, I am directed to earnestly request every person who has subscribed to the "pledge fund" for the organization of the State, to send at once the full amount of their pledge up to the first day of March, 1891, to the office of L. H. Ferrell, treasurer, 640 West Jefferson street, Louisville, Ky.

Your committee has engaged two organizers, who will begin their assaults on the rum power and rum parties in the State about the first of March next, and your committee must have your pledges paid to that date. It will need it all. And your committee earnestly, in the honored name of Prohibition, and in the name of enslaved humanity to the rum traffic, appeal to every prohibitionist in the State, and every friend to good government, pure homes, and exalted citizenship, to send your pledges to this fund if you have not heretofore done so, and thereby come up to the help of the right against the dark minions of crime and vice, corruption, and money, and aid in strangling to the death the destroying beast of the rum power in our land, and expelling from the State the shameless licensed system of the traffic.

Prohibitionists, your committee have faith and confidence in your exalted patriotism and fearless manhood in this dark hour in this gigantic struggle for home and country against the insatiable enemy and destroyer of the peace and honor of your State.

JOSIAH HARRIS, Chm'n.

An Open Letter from Chairman Harris.

HEADQUARTERS PROHIBITION STATE EX. COMMITTEE OF KY. Paducah, February 9, 1891.

The Chairmen of the Congressional District Committees of the Prohibition party of the State are hereby urged to the immediate discharge of a duty that cannot be delayed longer without serious and damaging results to the party, and the final triumph of the grandest principles actuating or impelling political parties today in this country. We urge each chairman in his respective Congressional district to put on the whole armor of his faith in and his loyalty to the only party of exalted and prominent reform in the land and go forth to the discharge of his whole duty. We urge you that you see to it that there shall be an active, brave and determined chairman in each county in your district; make this appointment in each county at once, and make them of such material as has convictions of duty and the courage of their convictions, fearing no man, no party, when right and duty call them to action. And the district committees should see to it that the county chairmen organize without delay their respective counties, form Prohibition party clubs in each county, and take subscriptions to one or more Prohibition party newspapers, and thereby scatter the truth, inform the people and they will not then be content with the false utterances of the liquor press of the country.

The Prohibition party organizers for the State at large will be in the field in a short time and begin the assault on the rum works of the State. We must stand by them. We must hold up their hands as were the hands of Moses, the leader and captain of Israel's hosts, by Aaron and Hori, and as it did to Israel, so

will victory come to Prohibition.

The committee hope, by and through these means, to thoroughly organize the party in every county in the State, to arouse the slumbering energies of the best citizenship of the Commonwealth, sound the totem, "to arms!" against the common and deadly enemy of both State and people, and drive back demoralized and beaten the criminal cohorts of the liquor traffic in their unholy advance under the leadership of the old political parties, with crime-stained hands and hoofs, against the citadel of Liberty.

The call for a party Prohibition State convention will be issued soon for some day in the month of May next. Let each county be prepared to send representatives to that convention; let each county have a voice in that convention, and let that voice be heard for Prohibition; let no county be silent. This can only be effected by organization. Prohibition patriots will now come up to the full measure of your duty in this crisis. Do it like brave men, and leave the results with God.

By order of the State Executive Committee.

JOSIAH HARRIS, Chm'n.

The Organization Fund.

The Prohibition State Organization Fund is now about an assured fact, but "to make assurance doubly sure," it is hoped that any who may feel able to assist the committee will contribute all they can.

It can all be profitably utilized.

A Tale of Two (Kentucky) Cities.

There are lying nearly equidistant around Lexington the following towns: Georgetown, Frankfort, Versailles, Nicholasville, Harrodsburg, Danville, Winchester, Richmond and Paris.

These towns are all in the same kind of Bluegrass country, and are filled with people who come from the finest families of this State.

There is hardly a newspaper man in Bluegrassdom that will not tell you that all of these towns except one have a record of horrible crimes.

The exception is Danville.

Twelve miles from Danville is Harrodsburg. The reputation of Harrodsburg is simply appalling. A sample of the way they do things there occurred at their last court day, when a sixteen year old boy, in a drunken debauch, shot dead a young man in the presence of his wife, that he married on last Christmas, for no reason in the world except that the boy was drunk.

When I was a Baltimore coffee drummer I used to stop over at Danville every time that I could when I could not get home, and I avoided Harrodsburg, and many drummers did the same.

I never knew until years after that at that time, and for years before, Danville did not allow liquor sold within its limits. It is the only one of these towns of which this is true.

If I had any business interest to take me to Danville, I would not hesitate to take my family there, but my boys and I will dig in the dirt to make our living for a long time yet, before I would take them to any other of those towns.

The Presbyterians drove the liquor traffic out of Danville because they wanted to help their college there. There are plenty of them in this city to drive it out of Lexington if they wanted to do so; for they are wealthy, intelligent and influential. But as soon as I say in print that the Presbyterians have no college here, and that their business interests make it safer for them not to oppose the liquor traffic, then good people here say I am introducing my peculiar religious views, and am ridiculing and persecuting a particular religious denomination.

One of the best Christians and Prohibitionists in this city, a few days ago, said to me that one of the most prominent Presbyterian ministers in this county had said to him of another of the most prominent Presbyterian ministers of the county, that he was "the most worldly wise man he ever knew."

I do not think I can be mistaken in saying that there is a recognized difference here on the question of opposing the liquor traffic between the Christian and Baptist and Methodist Churches on the one hand, and the Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches on the other.

About Fred Henry's "Clarion."

A gentleman from Versailles, who has just called to pay his respects and his subscription for THE BLADE, is one of a number of fine people from Versailles who have expressed to me regret that Fred Henry's new paper, "The Clarion," of Versailles, does not reflect the distinguished Prohibition sympathy of his parents.

This gentleman told me he had subscribed for the paper under the impression that it would have a color of this kind, and another gentleman told me yesterday the same thing.

I can but think that Mr. Henry's political sentiments are in sympathy with those of his parents, and while I do not ask him to make his paper a Prohibition sheet, unless it is his conscience to do so, I do think that in justice to his rearing, to himself and to the community, his paper ought at least to reflect the sentiments of that large and better element of the Democratic party that is getting ashamed of the liquor influence in that party.

I understand that The Clarion has in its last issue, which I have not seen, a reply to my previous allusions to it, the nature of which I have not heard.

I have been engaged in journalism a little longer than Brother Henry has, and I am satisfied that if he will let his "Clarion" be a trumpet that will give no uncertain sound for Prohibition and Woman Rights, it will make a financial success, and there is no reason to suppose that he will do this unless he gives his paper this turn.

I can cut out of THE BLADE good things that his Mother has said that he might simply reprint in his paper and make a better paper than Jo Blackburn could edit to save his life.

Thales of Miletus said in Greek what in my English type looks like Gnothi Seon.

I hope that young Brother of the quill will meditate upon this before his pen gets crystallized into the old Democratic humdrum.

The "Queen City" Heard From.

CINCINNATI, O., Feb. 9, '91. C. C. Moore, Esq., Ed. Blade, Lexington, Ky.

DEAR SIR—Your last edition of the Blade is just before me—have read the first two articles on first page, and have to say "Them's my sentiments." The centrifugal force of the old parties is throwing off the reformatory elements in them, and what we want to do is to keep up a corresponding centripetal force, and take them all in; remembering all the time that if we begin to compromise, in any way, the principles of our party, this centripetal force will be weakened, and we will fail to crystallize the flying fragments of the disintegrated old parties.

Sterling principle and eternal fidelity to that principle in a party will tell in time; just as manly principle and true moral courage in a man will conduce to his strength and favor with the people.

As to the talk that a few (a very few I am glad to say) of our people have about changing the name of our party, I think it weakness and folly.

Christ, when on Earth, said if we were ashamed to confess His name before men, He would be ashamed to confess us before His Father and the holy angels.

So if we have not the courage to stand for our name because it is a definition of its principles, and because the Devil hates it, we will find ourselves on the incline plane of degeneracy before long; for one compromise always leads to another; and the first little compromise we make is the most insidious. I believe if we should change our name the angels of Heaven would blush, because further compromise would be inevitable.

We mean to abolish not only the liquor traffic but all other forms of evil when we get into power, so that the name Prohibitionist would be just as applicable when the liquor business is destroyed.

The main province of government is the prohibition of evil—otherwise it would be superfluous; for without restriction, people need no party to say they may do so and so.

I hold that a change of name would be the harbinger of at

least comparative failure. If we preserve the dignity of our principles by holding to their appropriate name which is their true index, we will be the greatest party that this country ever saw; and only such a party will have the courage to take up new moral issues, and settle them rightly.

For persons outside the party to object to the name, I take it, is a good omen, for it shows they are thinking about us, and that their consciences are in process of adjustment, and the more they see the tenacity of our manhood, and the more they contemplate our principles, the more they will admire and have confidence in our party.

I think that with the fact that we have stood so long against unprecedented opposition, while so many other parties have gone down, and that we are gaining in strength, prestige and influence, we should have added faith and courage, and less floundering.

If we are constant in fidelity to our name and principles, they will carry us through in God's own good time, and we can afford to "labor and to wait."

What we must guard against now is impatience.

We must expect the flying meteors to spend their force somewhat before the power of our attraction shall be brought to bear upon them in perfect degree.

The principles of the Prohibition party are so humanitarian, so universally applicable, so free from prejudice of class or section, so divine that they form the very center of attraction for the moral universe; and will, in due course of time, draw all men to it who have any natural affinity.

Patience, courage and persistence will win. Let us not falter. J. B. MARTIN.

About Sample Copies.

Whenever I write anything that I ought not to write, I have orders for "sample copies" of my paper from all over the country.

It shows that the world is not ripe for the millennium yet.

I cannot always take the time to send these single sample copies, so that I just put the name of the party who writes on my regular mailing list.

Nobody can tell the style of a scatter gun paper like mine from a single issue. When I am jolly the paper is jolly, and when I am blue, like I have been ever since the issue before last, the paper is blue.

So that I ask of these friends—as I hope they are—to whom my paper may come, that they will let it come just long enough to make up their minds about it, and then either pay me for it or say they intend to pay me for it at some reasonable date, or that they do not intend to pay me for it.

And this is what I ask of everybody to whom this paper goes who has not paid for it.

Any of those three answers will be satisfactory to me, and will be thankfully received.

Nearly all the communications that come to me are kindly expressed; but yesterday I got two BLADES wrapped together and returned to me indorsed with this superscription, "Don't want it at any price."

Those two gentlemen have been taking it for nearly five months now, without paying for it, and now that I have said something that many of my friends and I regret, they take this occasion to add to my trouble.

If there is a good world that all people will get to hereafter that only try to do good, even though they fail, I am glad of that chapter in the New Testament on the subject of "stars differing from one another in glory," and that goes to show that there will be different ranks in the other world.

I hope these gentlemen and I will all get there just the same, but somehow I can't help hoping that we will not have rooms on the same flat, so to speak.

A Lady Wants a Blade Editorial in Tract Form.

MILLESBURG, KY., Feb. 4, '91. Mr. C. C. Moore.

Enclosed you will find twenty cents. In return kindly send me several copies of the last issue of the Blue Grass Blade. Your editorial comparing Mr. Atherton with highway robbers I regard as the very best thing that was ever published in Central Kentucky, and if you could be persuaded to print it in tract form it would do much toward educating our people in temperance reform.

Respectfully,
Mrs. S. M. BARBER.

TAYLOR & HAWKINS,

Show below a few specials which merit your attention, and which it will pay you to read and remember.

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